

Lesson 1 —

Natural Reactions

Responding to Good,
Bad, or Surprising News



A red target icon with a white bullseye and a blue arrow hitting the center.

Today's Goal

Learn to react naturally to good, bad, or surprising news using short, native-sounding expressions.

Example:

News: "I just got a new job!"

Reaction: "Wow, that's amazing!"

Group A — Quick Natural Reactions

Teacher Instruction:

Model each phrase clearly.
Students repeat with natural intonation.

1. Wow, that's awesome!
2. No way, that's great!
3. Are you serious?
4. Really? That's great news!



Group B — Sympathetic Reactions

Teacher Instruction:

Model each phrase clearly.
Students repeat with natural
intonation.

1. Oh no...
2. Oh, that's rough.
3. I'm sorry to hear that.
4. Yikes...



Tone & Intonation Practice

The Teacher models each phrase with the correct tone. Students repeat twice.

Positive / Excited Tone (rising, energetic)

- Wow, that's awesome!
- No way, that's great!

Surprised Tone (short rise, fall)

- Are you serious?
- Really? That's great news!

Sympathetic Tone (soft, falling)

- Oh no...
- Oh, that's rough.
- I'm sorry to hear that.
- Yikes...

Usage Notes

- **Wow, that's awesome!** → Used for very good or exciting news. Tone should be upbeat.
- **No way, that's great!** → Shows surprise + excitement at the same time.
- **Are you serious?** → Can be positive or negative, depending on tone.
- **Really? That's great news!** → A friendly, natural way to show interest + happiness.

Usage Notes

- **Oh no...** → A soft, sympathetic reaction to bad news.
- **Oh, that's rough.** → Shows empathy when someone has a difficult situation.
- **I'm sorry to hear that.** → A gentle, polite expression of sympathy.
- **Yikes...** → Used for surprising or uncomfortable moments.



“This or That?” Challenge

The student chooses the more natural reaction and explains why it fits better.

1. Quote: “I just won a thousand dollars!”

- A) Really? That’s great news!
- B) Are you serious?

2. Quote: “I dropped my lunch all over the floor.”

- A) Yikes...
- B) I’m sorry to hear that.



Role-Play Scenario

Work in pairs. Take turns being Person A and Person B.

Bad Day Scenario

Person A describes a rough day (lost something, broke something, didn't sleep).

Person B responds naturally.

Personal Experience

Teacher Instruction:

Students share their experiences with the class. Then they say which reaction they would like to hear and see if it matches what others were thinking.

1. Share something good that happened recently.
2. Share something surprising that happened today.
3. Share something frustrating or unlucky that happened this week.
4. Share something you're looking forward to.

Great job today!



You learned how to react naturally in real conversations:

- to good news
- to bad news
- to surprising news

Keep practicing these reactions in your daily conversations. The more you use them, the more natural they will feel!

See you next time for Lesson 2 —
Softening Opinions!